



HARLES the Second, by the Grace of God, of *England, Scotland, France, and Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith; &c. To all and Singular Arch-Bishops, Bishops, Arch-Deacons, Deans, and their Officials; Parsons, Vicars, Curates, and all other Spiritual Persons, And also to all Justices of the Peace, Mayors, Sheriffs, Bayliffes, Constables, Church-wardens, Chappel-wardens, Headboroughs, Collectors for the Poor, and their Overseers; And also to all Officers of Cities, Burroughs, and Towns Corporate and to all Our Officers, Ministers and Subjects whatsoever they be (as well within Liberties as without) to whom these presents shall come, *Greeting.* **Whereas** the Cathedral Church of *St. Pauls* situate in our City of *London*, famous heretofore for Magnificent Structure, and a principal Ornament not only of that City, but also of the whole Kingdom, by the late dreadful Fire in *London* was Destroyed and Consumed to such a degree, that no part of the Antient Walls or Structures thereof could with any safety be relied upon or left Standing: And We taking into Our consideration, That our Royal Grandfather, and Father were pleased when the said Church was Standing, but grown much in decay, to set forward that great and honourable Work of Upholding and Repairing of the said Church, and to grant several Commissions in order to the accomplishing of that Work, with sundry good directions therein contained, to that purpose, We very willing to pursue their Pious and Royal Intentions; But finding it was become absolutely necessary totally to demolish and raze to the Ground all the Reliques of the former Buildings, did resolve in the same Place, but upon New Foundations to Erect a New Church; And to the end the same might Equal, if not Exceed the Splendor and Magnificence of the former Church when it was in its best Estate; And So become much more than formerly the Principal Ornament of that our Royal City, to the Honour of our Government, and this our Realm. After long consideration and Advice taken, We thought fit by Our Commission under Our Great Seal of *England*, bearing date the 12th day of *November* in the 25th year of our Reign, to nominate and appoint the Lord Mayor of the City of *London*, the Lord Arch Bishop of *Canterbury*, the Lord Chancellor of *England*, and sundry other Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and divers other persons of quality to be our Commissioners for the Rebuilding, New-erecting, Finishing and Adorning of the said Cathedral Church of *St. Paul* in *London*, in the same Church-Yard, but upon New Foundations, and according to the Design and Model prepared and by Us approved. In pursuance of which Our Commission, the said Lord Mayor, and the rest of the Commissioners have begun the said Work and made a fair Progress therein; but We taking notice of an Account stated in the Month of *July* last past, of all Monys Received and Paid, as well for and towards the Repairing of the said Cathedral Church before the said dreadful Fire, as for and towards the Re-building thereof, since do find that notwithstanding many persons have contributed to the same, and that an Imposition hath by Our consent in Parliament been laid upon Coals, at four pence half-penny per Chaldron, towards Re-building of the same Church: Yet that without further Aydes throughout all parts of this Our Realm, this so great a work will not be Finished, and it being an undoubted truth that although the Care and Over-sight of the first Erection of that Church were undertaken by a few, yet the Expence proceeded from the Charitable Aydes of a great number of People, which course we think will be necessary to be pursued, and have therefore resolved to commend this pious and charitable work to all Our loving Subjects in and through all the Counties, Cities, Towns, and Parishes of this Our Kingdom of *England*, and Dominion of *Wales*. And since in the times of Superstition and Ignorance, Men were willing (for the Service of God) to part with so much of their Substance as necessarily was spent in the Erection of such a Magnificent Structure; It cannot be without Scandal to these times in which God hath been pleased to guide the Church of *England* in the true wayes of his Worship, if such a Work begun, and so far proceeded in, should not be finished. And **Whereas** in Our said Commission of the twelfth of *November* aforesaid in the further foresight of the greatness and difficulty of the said Work, and for a further supply by a general and liberal Contribution of all Our loving Subjects of this Kingdom; We did give unto our said Commissioners full Power and Authority from time to time to consult, advise, and agree of such Formes of Letters Patents, to be drawn in a more especial manner than ordinary Briefs are wont to be, according to the extraordinary nature of this case, for publick Collections to be made throughout this our Realm of *England*, and Dominion of *Wales*. And Our said Commissioners having by their humble Petition made address unto us for such Letters Patents to Issue under our Great Seal, that so pious and charitable a Work may not be at a stand, to the dishonour of Religion, and reproach of this Kingdom; **Now know ye**, therefore, That We having graciously condescended unto their humble Request herein, of Our pious and charitable Inclinations to the promoting of so good a Work, which we would rejoyce to see finished; And of Our especial Grace and Princely Compassion **Have** given and granted and by these Our Letters Patents under the Great Seal of *England*, do give and grant unto the Right Reverend Father in God, Our right trusty and well-beloved Councellour *Henry* Lord Bishop of *London*, Dean of our Chappel Royal, and to the Bishop of *London* for the time being; To our Right Trusty and Well-beloved *Edward Stillingfleet*, Doctor in Divinity, Dean of the Cathedral Church of *St. Paul* in *London*; *Edward Layfield* Doctor in Divinity, *Francis Turner* Doctor in Divinity, and *John Tillotson* Doctor in Divinity, Residentiaries of the said Cathedral Church, and to the Dean and Residentiaries of the said Cathedral Church for the time being, and unto their Deputie and Deputies, the Bearer and Bearers hereof (Authorized and Deputed in that behalf as afterwards in these Presents is appointed) full Power, License and Authority, to ask, gather, receive and take the charitable Contribution of all Our loving Subjects, not only Housholders, but also Servants, Strangers and others, in all and every the Counties, Cities, Towns, Cinque-ports, Towns Corporate, Universities, Halls, Colledges, Inns of Court and Chancery, Burroughs, Liberties, Precincts, Priviledged Places, Parishes, Chappellries, Villages, Hamlets, and all other places whatsoever, within our Kingdom of *England*, Dominion of *Wales*, and Town of *Berwick* upon *Tweed*, for and toward the Building and Finishing of the said Church. And we do more especially recommend the care of the due Execution of these Our Letters Patents unto the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of the City of *London*, and all other persons whatsoever residing and dwelling within the same City; To the end that they being therein more particularly concerned, may be Exemplary unto the rest of Our said Kingdom. And therefore We will and Command all and singular the Arch Bishops, and Bishops of all and singular the Provinces and Diocesses within our said Kingdom of *England*, and Dominion of *Wales*, That they and every of them do give a particular Recommendation and Command to all the Parsons, Vicars and Curates of all and every the Parishes and other places as well within Liberties as without, within their respective Diocesses, for the advancement of this so pious a Work, unto whose Paternal care and inspection we chiefly recommend the pursuit of these our Letters Patents; and that they do effectually stir up their inferiour Clergy, to give fit Arguments to their respective Flocks, both by Exhortation and Example for a liberal Contribution herein. And for the more certain answering of all such summs of Money, and also to the intent a Testimony may remain to Posterity of the pious Bounty and Liberality of such as shall contribute to so good a Work, as shall be thus collected or agreed to be paid, you shall prepare one or more Book or Books for each County within your Diocesses, wherein shall be written the Names of all those that shall contribute, and the sum of mony which shall be presently given and collected, together with such summs of money as they will be pleased afterwards to bestow on that Work, and the times they will make payment thereof; to which, We Will their Names be under-written. Which Book or Books shall alwayes be kept in some safe or publick place within the County, by direction of the Bishop, and in order to be returned, after the year of this Brief be expired, to our said Commissioners, and all such summs of money as you shall receive. And the said Parsons, Vicars and Curates, upon the next Lords Day after that true Copies of these Our Letters Patents shall be delivered unto them, Deliberately and Effectually do publish and declare the Tenor of these Our Letters Patents unto our loving Subjects, and earnestly exhort, perswade, and stir them up to extend their liberal contributions herein. And the respective Church-wardens and Chappel-wardens, of the said several Parishes and Chappellries, are hereby required upon the Week days following the said Lords Day, to ask and receive from all their Parishioners, as well Masters, and Mistresses, and Servants, as Others in their Families, the charitable Contributions of them and every of them, and to move and desire them to subscribe their Names severally and respectively to such charitable Contributions, in pursuance of these our Letters Patents. And the sum or summs of money, by them respectively given, in one or more Books, as occasion shall require, fairly written. And after such Collection made, they are in the presence of the respective Inhabitants on the next Lords Day following to subscribe the whole sum upon Books under their hands, and to enter them into Books of Accounts for the same Parishes, and the summs contributed within the said Parishes and the Places where, and the Times when the same were collected, and they are also to deliver the same unto the said Parsons, Vicars or Curats respectively, together with the Books wherein the persons contributing have subscribed, who are to take care that the respective Church-wardens do their duties in the premises, or otherwise do certify their neglect unto the Bishops of the Diocese. To the intent that such neglect may be supplied by other care, and the person offending may be punished for the same according to Law. And the said Parsons, Vicars, and Curates respectively, are to send the said Moneys with a Duplicate of the said Accounts unto the respective Bishops of the several Diocesses, by such means, and within such time as they shall direct, to be by them disposed as herein after is declared. And for the better performance of this so pious and charitable a Work, the said Parsons, Vicars, and Curates, respectively are desired (where conveniently they may) to accompany the said Church-wardens in asking and receiving the said Contributions, or procure some other of the Chief Inhabitants in the said Parishes respectively to do the same. And Our further Will and Pleasure is, and We do hereby for the better advancement of these Our pious intentions, Will, Require and Command the Bishops, and all other Dignitaries of the Church, that they make their Contributions distinctly to be returned in the several Provinces to the respective Arch-bishops of the same. And also, that all Our loving Subjects of this Kingdom, of what Dignity, Degree, or Quality soever, may Contribute to the same: We do declare, that as We Our self have already contributed, We are Graciously pleased farther distinctly to Contribute, and that all Our Court and Council shall do the like; and that all Heads and Governours of Colledges and Halls in both Our Universities; and also that the Judges and Officers of all and every Our respective Courts at *Westminster*, and the Professors of the Laws, both Common and Civil, and all Students of the several Inns of Courts and Chancery, by their several Bodies and Societies, shall Contribute their free and Charitable benevolence herein, in such manner and Order as shall be directed and appointed by Our Commissioners for Re-building of the said Church. And lastly, Our Will and Pleasure is, and We do hereby recommend unto the care and circumspection of all and singular the Arch-Bishops and Bishops of the said respective Provinces and Diocesses, that it be so ordered, that the Collection and Return of the said Moneys may without Charge or any Deductions to be made out of the said Contributions, be made and returned by the said respective Arch-bishops, and other Our Officers and Ministers, who are hereby empowered to receive the same, with all the said Copies and Accounts under their Hands, unto Sir *Thomas Player*, the present Treasurer, or to the Treasurer for the time being, as likewise that the Moneys be paid into the Chamber of *London*, the present Treasury of all Moneys designed for the carrying on of the said Work, to be employed and disposed of in and towards the Building and Finishing of the said Cathedral Church, according to such Orders and Directions, as Our said Commissioners for Re-building of the said Church by Us appointed shall give therein, for the more speedy and effectual prosecution of the end of these Our Letters Patents. In witness whereof, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patents for the space of One whole year, next after the date hereof to ensue, and no longer. Witness Our self at *Westminster* the Six and Twentieth day of *February*, in the Thirtieth year of Our Reign.

G O D S A V E T H E K I N G .

Smith.